

# Deer - General Regulations

## Resident Deer Hunting License Privileges with

Annual Class X and Class XJ, Lifetime Class A-L and AB-L, Class C, Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen and Underage: entitle a hunter to take one deer during the archery season, one antlered deer during the bucks-only season and one deer during the muzzleloader season.

### Additional licenses must be purchased:

- To hunt an additional deer in deer firearm seasons: Class RG
- To archery hunt an additional deer: Class RB
- To hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class N
- To hunt with a handgun: Class A-1

Annual Class A and Class Q (must also have a Class CS): entitles the hunter to hunt one antlered deer during the bucks-only season.

### Additional licenses must be purchased:

- To hunt an additional deer in deer firearm seasons: Class RG
- To archery hunt deer: Class U
- To archery hunt an additional deer: Class RB
- To muzzleloader hunt deer in muzzleloader season: Class V
- To hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class N
- To hunt on national forest lands: Class I
- To hunt with a handgun: Class A-1



## Resident Landowner Privileges

West Virginia resident landowners may hunt on their own land without obtaining a license. See definition of resident landowner privileges on page 7.

A resident landowner hunting on his/her own land without a license can take the same number of deer as a licensed hunter. *A hunter (licensee or landowner) **cannot** take more than the number of deer allowed in the respective seasons.*

*After killing a deer as a landowner, a person **cannot** take another deer by use of a license for which the privilege has already been used. Example - if a landowner has a Class X or A license and kills a deer on his own land during a deer season, the landowner **cannot** use the Class X or A license to kill another deer. He/she can check the deer in as a landowner kill or on the Class X or A license. Either way, the Class X or A privilege has been used for that season.*

## Nonresident License Privileges

Nonresidents ages 8 thru 14 who have satisfactorily completed a Hunter Education Course may purchase a Class XXJ license and a Class CS/LE license which entitles the holder to take one deer during the archery season, one antlered deer during the bucks-only season, and one deer during the muzzleloader season.

### Additional licenses must be purchased:

- to hunt an additional deer in deer firearm seasons: Class RRG
- to archery hunt an additional deer: Class RRB
- to hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class NN

All other nonresidents, regardless of age or landowner status, must purchase an annual Class E, and a Class CS/LE license which entitles the holder to hunt one antlered deer during the bucks-only season.

### Additional licenses must be purchased:

- to hunt an additional deer in deer firearm seasons: Class RRG
- to archery hunt deer: Class UU
- to archery hunt an additional deer: Class RRB
- to muzzleloader hunt deer in muzzleloader season: Class VV
- to hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class NN
- to hunt on national forest lands: Class I
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1

# General Regulations - Deer

## Firearms/Bows and Equipment

### It is illegal to hunt deer with:

- a shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball, or a rifle using rimfire ammunition of less than .25 caliber.
- a fully automatic rifle, shotgun or handgun.
- a handgun using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottle-necked case of less than .24 caliber.
- a muzzleloader of less than .38 caliber during the muzzleloader deer season.
- anything other than a bow or single-shot muzzleloading firearm on Green Bottom WMA.
- an electronic call.

## Hunting Hours and Restrictions

After a person has killed his/her legal daily limit of deer, they may not participate further in hunting deer with either a bow or firearm the remainder of the day.

After killing the legal limit of deer, a hunter shall not be afield with any firearm with solid ball ammunition, unless legally hunting bear, or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot unless legally hunting waterfowl using nontoxic shot.

It is legal to hunt small game during the muzzleloader season with a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire.

**A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer per year in all seasons combined.**

## Blaze Orange Requirement

Persons hunting in counties or portions thereof where a deer firearms season is presently open shall wear a blaze orange outer garment of at least 400 square inches. This applies to counties or parts thereof with a special youth/Class Q deer hunt. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.

## Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting

Each person killing a deer must, within one hour and before moving the carcass from where it was killed, complete and attach the game field tag supplied with his/her license. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. The field tag must remain on the carcass until it is dressed for consumption.

The unskinned carcass or the fresh skin and head of each deer, shall be delivered to a conservation officer or an official checking station for checking and retagging:

1. before it is transported beyond the county adjacent to the county of kill,
2. within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first.

All deer killed in Logan, McDowell, Mingo or Wyoming counties shall be checked and retagged at an official game checking station in the four-county area within 24 hours of the time of kill. Deer killed outside these four counties may not be checked within the four-county area.

A hunter may not hunt deer until the day after any previously killed deer has been checked, except for that portion of the antlerless deer season during which two deer may be taken on the same day on private land provided the first deer has been legally checked.

## Common Violations

Following are the most common violations observed by conservation officers during the deer hunting seasons:

- Hunting without license
- Improper license
- Making false application for license
- Loaded gun in a vehicle
- Failure to field tag deer
- Illegal possession of wildlife
- Hunting without permission
- Exceeding the limits
- Shooting at decoy deer